

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A server for a supply-based management system, comprising:

a plurality of business process entity beans, comprising:

a request-for-quotation (RFQ) process entity bean,

a quotation process entity bean, and

a purchase order (PO) process entity bean; and

a notification manager.

2. The server of claim 1, wherein a RFQ process implemented by the RFQ

entity bean comprises the steps of:

(a) creating an RFQ by a buyer;

(b) selecting a list of suppliers by the buyer; and

(c) sending the RFQ to the selected suppliers.

3. The server of claim 1, wherein a quotation process implemented by the

quotation entity bean comprises the steps of:

(a) reviewing a RFQ from a buyer by a supplier; and

(b) responding to the RFQ by the supplier.

4. The server of claim 3, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) ignoring the RFQ by the supplier.

5. The server of claim 3, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) declining the RFQ by the supplier.

6. The server of claim 3, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) providing a quote to the buyer by the supplier.

7. The server of claim 6, further comprising:

(b2) declining the quote by the buyer.

8. The server of claim 6, further comprising:

(b2) accepting the quote by the buyer.

9. The server of claim 6, further comprising:

(b2) providing a counter quote to the supplier by the buyer.

10. The server of claim 1, wherein a PO process implemented by the PO entity

bean comprises the steps of:

(a) creating a PO by the buyer; and

(b) responding to the PO by the supplier.

11. The server of claim 10, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) declining the PO by the supplier.

12. The server of claim 10, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) acknowledging the PO by the supplier.

13. The server of claim 12, further comprising:

(b2) filling the PO by the supplier.

14. The server of claim 12, further comprising:

(b2) requesting a change in the PO by the supplier;

(b3) accepting the requested change by the buyer;

(b4) editing the PO by the buyer; and

(b5) sending the edited PO from the buyer to the supplier.

15. The server of claim 1, wherein the notification manager manages transmissions of messages from a sender to a recipient.

16. A supply-based management system in a network environment, comprising:

a front-end, comprising:

a user interface,

a controller coupled to the user interface, and

a business process router coupled to the controller; and

a server, comprising:

a plurality of business process entity beans, comprising:

a RFQ process entity bean,

a quotation process entity bean, and
a PO process entity bean, and
a notification manager.

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17. The system of claim 16, wherein the user interface comprises a plurality of
Java server pages.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the controller controls a transfer of data
between the front end and the server.

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19. The system of claim 16, wherein the business process router identifies
processes to which incoming data are to be passed for processing.

20. The system of claim 16, wherein a RFQ process implemented by the RFQ
entity bean comprises the steps of:

- (a) creating an RFQ by a buyer;
- (b) selecting a list of suppliers by the buyer; and
- (c) sending the RFQ to the selected suppliers.

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21. The system of claim 16, wherein a quotation process implemented by the
quotation entity bean comprises the steps of:

- (a) reviewing a RFQ from a buyer by a supplier; and
- (b) responding to the RFQ by the supplier.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) ignoring the RFQ by the supplier.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) declining the RFQ by the supplier.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) providing a quote to the buyer by the supplier.

25. The system of claim 24, further comprising:

(b2) declining the quote by the buyer.

26. The system of claim 24, further comprising:

(b2) accepting the quote by the buyer.

27. The system of claim 24, further comprising:

(b2) providing a counter quote to the supplier by the buyer.

28. The system of claim 16, wherein a PO process implemented by the PO entity

bean comprises the steps of:

(a) creating a PO by the buyer; and

(b) responding to the PO by the supplier.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) declining the PO by the supplier.

30. The system of claim 28, wherein the responding step (b) comprises:

(b1) acknowledging the PO by the supplier.

31. The system of claim 30, further comprising:

(b2) filling the PO by the supplier.

32. The system of claim 30, further comprising:

(b2) requesting a change in the PO by the supplier;

(b3) accepting the requested change by the buyer;

(b4) editing the PO by the buyer; and

(b5) sending the edited PO from the buyer to the supplier.

33. The system of claim 16, wherein the notification manager manages

transmissions of messages from a sender to a recipient.

34. A computer readable medium with program instructions for implementing a

RFQ process for a supply-based management system, the instructions for:

(a) creating an RFQ by a buyer;

(b) selecting a list of suppliers by the buyer; and

(c) sending the RFQ to the selected suppliers.

35. A computer readable medium with program instructions for implementing a quotation process for a supply-based management system, the instructions for:

- (a) reviewing a RFQ from a buyer by a supplier; and
- (b) responding to the RFQ by the supplier.

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36. The medium of claim 35, wherein the responding instruction (b) comprises the instructions for:

- (b1) ignoring the RFQ by the supplier.

37. The medium of claim 35, wherein the responding instruction (b) comprises instructions for:

- (b1) declining the RFQ by the supplier.

38. The medium of claim 35, wherein the responding instruction (b) comprises instructions for:

- (b1) providing a quote to the buyer by the supplier.

39. The medium of claim 38, further comprising instructions for:

- (b2) declining the quote by the buyer.

40. The medium of claim 38, further comprising instructions for:

- (b2) accepting the quote by the buyer.

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41. The medium of claim 38, further comprising instructions for:

(b2) providing a counter quote to the supplier by the buyer.

42. A computer readable medium with program instructions for implementing a

5 PO process for a supply-based management system, the instructions for:

(a) creating a PO by the buyer; and

(b) responding to the PO by the supplier.

43. The medium of claim 42, wherein the responding instruction (b) comprises

10 instructions for:

(b1) declining the PO by the supplier.

44. The medium of claim 42, wherein the responding instruction (b) comprises

15 instructions for:

(b1) acknowledging the PO by the supplier.

45. The medium of claim 44, further comprising:

(b2) filling the PO by the supplier.

20 46. The medium of claim 44, further comprising:

(b2) requesting a change in the PO by the supplier;

(b3) accepting the requested change by the buyer;

(b4) editing the PO by the buyer; and

(b5) sending the edited PO from the buyer to the supplier.

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